

*An English Emigrant's*  
EXPERIENCE

IN  
WESTERN CANADA.

For further particulars apply to any of the following Canadian Government representatives:—

Mr. W. T. R. PRESTON, Commissioner of Emigration  
*11-12 Charing Cross, London, S. W.*

Mr. A. F. JURY, Old Castle Buildings, Preeson's Row, Liverpool  
Mr. G. H. MITCHELL, 43, Cannon Street, New Street, Birmingham  
Mr. J. B. WALKER, 52, St. Enoch Square, Glasgow  
Mr. JOHN WEBSTER, 14, Westmoreland Street, Dublin  
Mr. E. O'KELLY, 17-19, Victoria Street, (corner Waring Street), Belfast  
Mr H M. MURRAY, Western Mail Buildings, Cardiff



Sketches

of  
Albertan Life

commenced

March 1901

Arthur A. Brooke

and  
Frederick Allen

W.D. Scott, Esq.

Dept of Immigration, Ottawa.

Dear Sir,

Your favor to hand and I wish to say in answer to your question; that I am, or was, English. My father and mother, however, brought us up in Switzerland where we, 9 of us, spent a delightful childhood. I lived in England long enough to get acquainted with our relatives and friends, and with the country, before coming out here to become a Canadian, a name I hope to do honour to if I am spared. So your title, "An English Emigrant's Experience in Western Canada" will hit the mark exactly and will please many an Englishman when he gets his eyes on the book.

I hope the booklet will have a wide circulation, if only to help a little in attracting the attention of my fellow countrymen over the "big ditch" to our glorious Canada. How we got along, the difficulties and trials we overcame, the pleasure and fun we took out of the pioneer life we led, is partly illustrated in this book of sketches. We stayed right with it. We broke what land we could every year and raised crops of good grain. Cattle increased and now after some years of steady plodding, we begin to see some show of success for our efforts. We are fairly on our feet. There are 35 head of cattle in the yard; 14 of which are cows, the most profitable stock for a poor man. We raised 16 calves last spring, counting those that fell to us from the cows we took on shares 3 years ago. Pigs are proving valuable as money makers and we now keep 20 instead of 1 as in the first year. Chickens bring in

in a lot of money, either by eggs or as dressed poultry. There are 45 acres broken and cultivated on the place. There might be more, but I had not horses enough till last summer, and I broke 10 acres for my brother H. We have found the country could raise fine fall wheat, barley and oats, and excellent spring wheat has been threshed near us. Potatoes and garden vegetables can be profusely grown and of the best quality. Tame grasses surpass anything else as money making crops. The natural pasture and hay, cannot be excelled. We work our horses all summer on just what they can pick up on the ranges. And flowers! The prairie is simply gaudy, extravagantly painted during the summer months. We have found grand strawberry patches and lots of wild gooseberries. Small fruit will do well here. We have had grand sport, fishing and shooting.

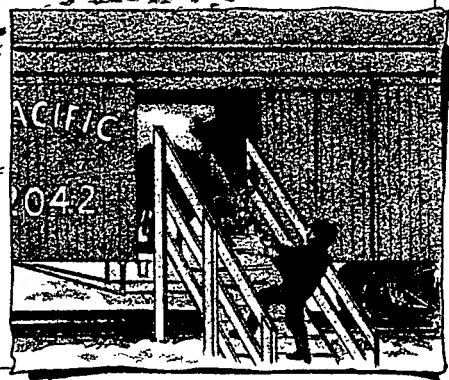
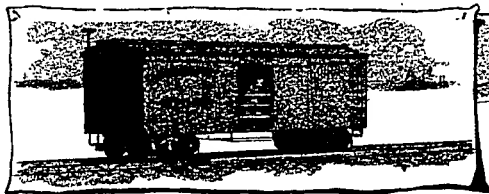
Altogether, we cannot help thanking Providence that we settled in this magnificent country. Although we have had many reverses, still we keep going ahead and though we have done very well, we can see we will do better yet as time goes by and we keep on improving our farm and stock. Three more of my brothers have joined us and each one feels that there is a good prospect ahead of him and believes, as we do, that there is a grand future ahead of this beautiful country. It is growing and it will pay any man to grow with it.

-Yours very sincerely

Arthur A. Brooker.

I arrived at Didsbury, Alta., March 4, 1901, with a Carload of Settler's effects and stock. But for a few houses on the west side of the track I might as well have been left in the middle of the prairie, for there was little sign of life.

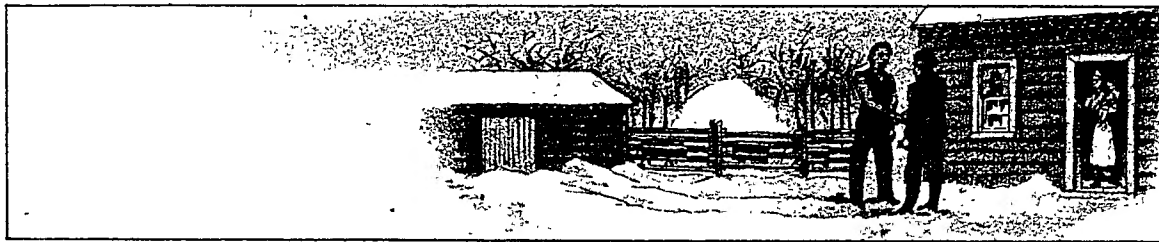
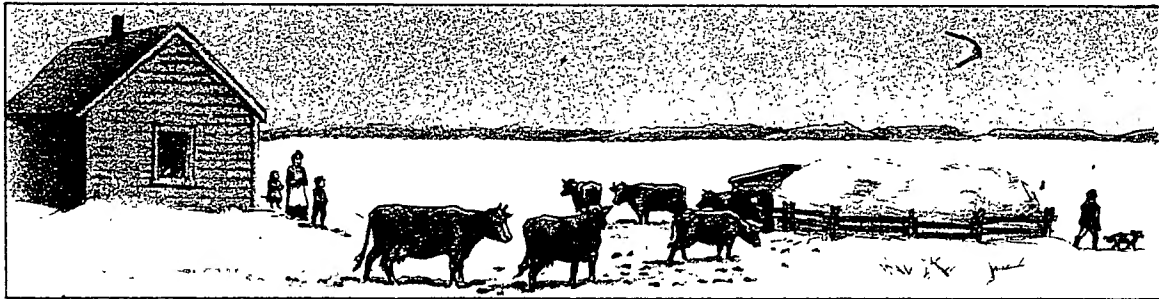
However, I unloaded my stock and with it started out on foot for the ranch of my friend Charlie, situated about eight miles to the northwest.



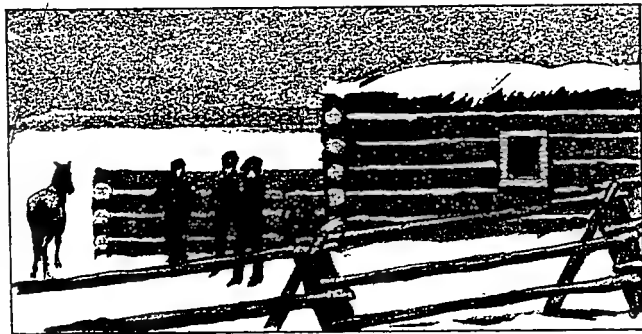
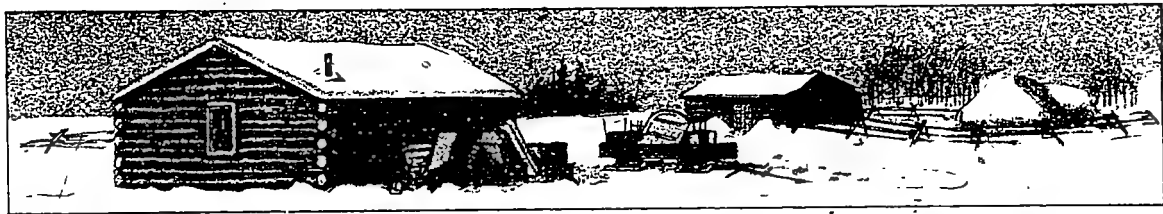
When about five miles out, while still on my way to Charlie's ranch, I decided that it would be unwise to proceed farther with the cattle. Coming to Mrs Adams' place I arranged to have them remain there for the night. The sun was setting and the ranch was a good ways off yet, but I went on as fast as I could.

In due time I reached Charlie's, where I was gladly greeted and well looked after. It was on my arrival at the ranch that I learned that Charlie had left Didsbury only fifteen minutes before I arrived there. He had been told no trains were expected that afternoon.



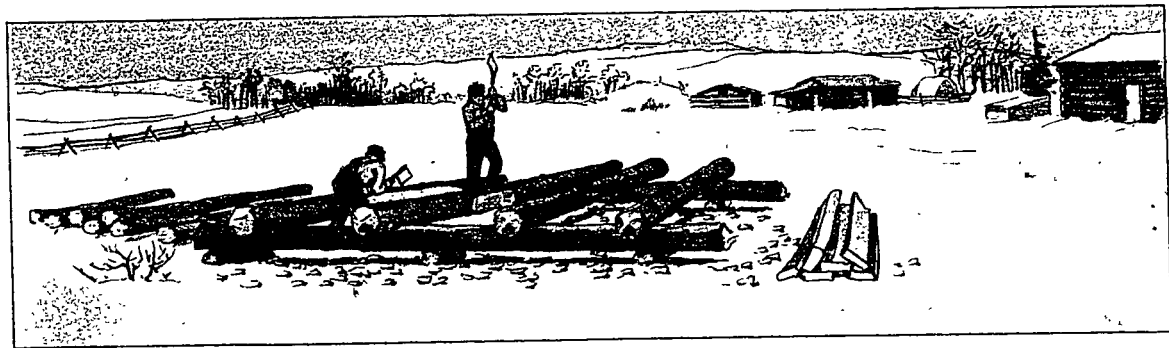
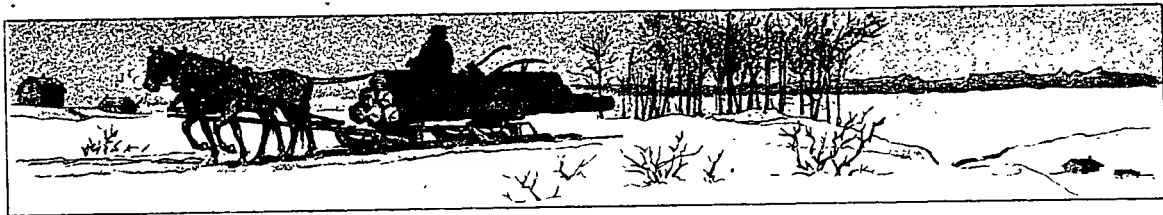


Next day Charlie and I brought down  
my household effects from the car and  
piled them on the north side of his house.  
A short time after we went to a neighbor's,  
bought a pair of rather skinny colts  
and fetched them home.

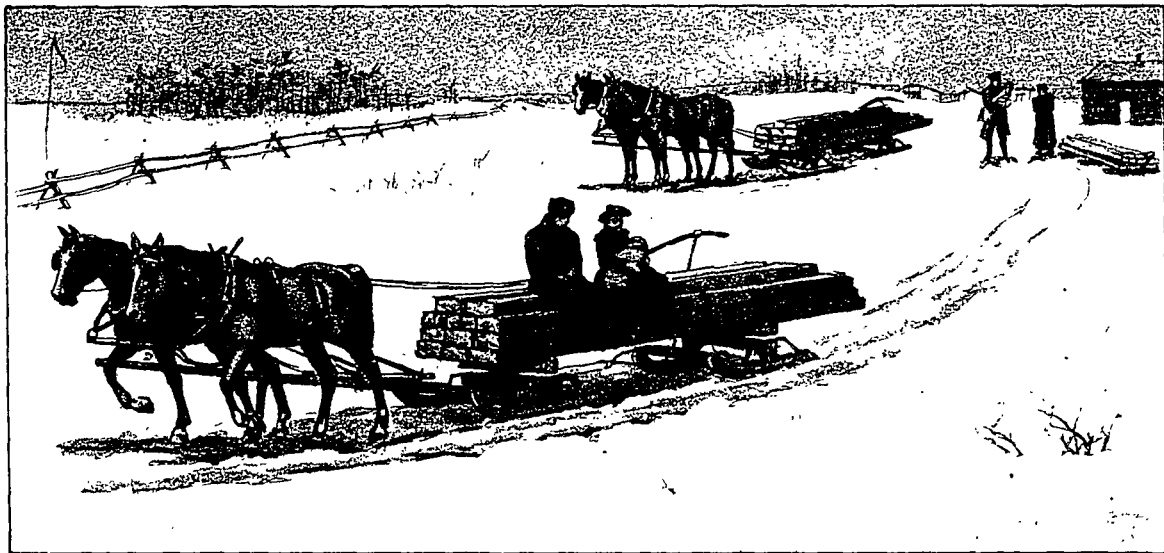


The Colts turned out to be made of good stuff, just the same. I drew many loads of logs from the bottom of the Dog-Pound Valley, where I also purchased a set (forty) of building logs for my own use.

When the logs had been drawn up to Charlie's place he and I set to work to hew them. When this was finished we started out for my place with two loads, but we found Rosebud Creek so swollen that no attempt was made to cross it. When the creek went down Charlie and I made a temporary bridge of logs and poles. These we covered with manure and snow, which enabled us to cross in safety.



The weather was so nice while the logs were being hauled to my place that Annie, Bert and the Babies came with us for a ride and enjoyed it very much.




After encountering many difficulties in getting the materials over to where I was to build a home for myself—principally due to changes in the weather and the danger of fording swollen streams—with Charlie's help and also the girls, I finally got a shanty built.

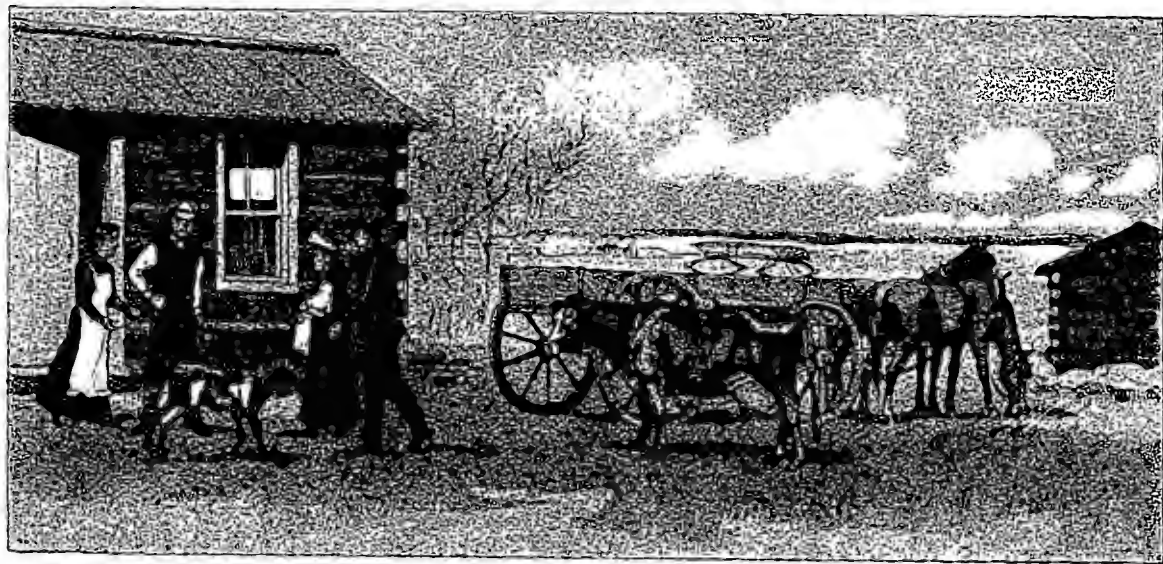
What I had next to think about was a stable.  
I built one







My feelings of annoyance at the  
obstacles encountered in moving, changed  
to feelings of happiness when Charlie came  
over on a bright afternoon with one of  
my cows and a fine calf.

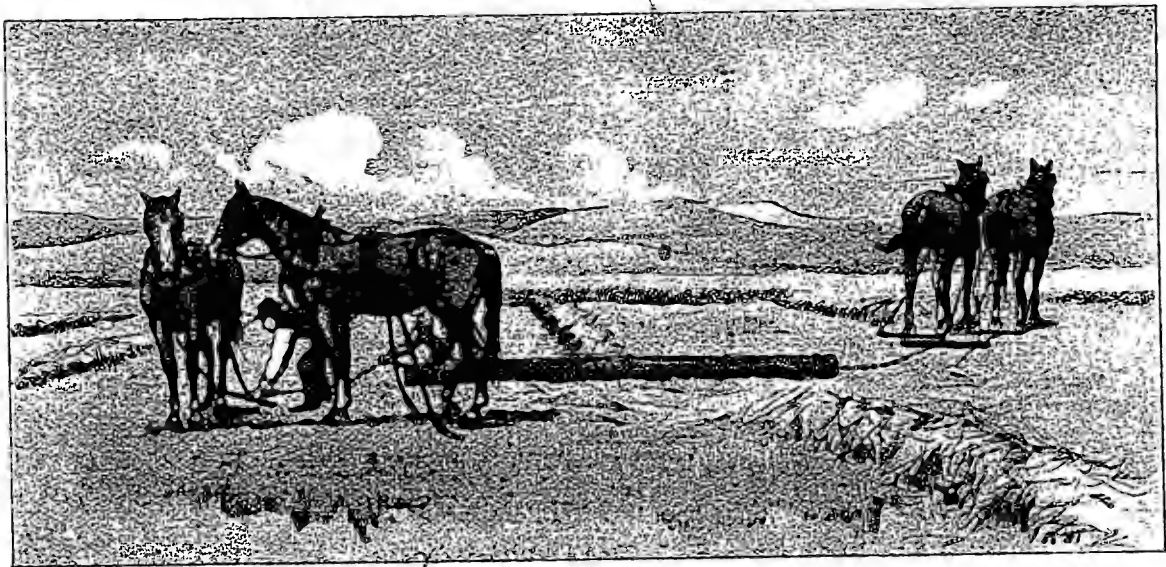



In the latter part of May, when the weather was wet and generally unpleasant, Mrs. Ruth, Allie, and Aggie arrived in Alberta. Mr. Ruth and Percy had come a short time before.

After the car was unloaded we hewed logs for Mr. Ruth's buildings. Charlie and Percy drew them over the creek and a stable, 24 x 18 was put up first. After the walls and the frame of the roof were built the ladies came to see the structure and praise our skill. Mr. Ruth's shanty was built later.





Sometimes ranchers use a sweep to put up hay. It is often a mere log or pole, or even a thick plank. It works fast and saves the men a great amount of hard pitching (August 1901) I thought we would try the sweep. After some practice good loads were brought in, but there were certain dangers attached to the work, so to finish the stack we drew hay in with the wagon.





In Alberta four horses are required on the common breaker-plow on account of the low brush. Sometimes a dry willow root stops the plow, and, of course, it has to be chopped out. But work is generally satisfactory.








Unlike Manitoba the Prairie of Alberta is sometimes very uneven, but often a great piece of country without an undulation is met with. One gets accustomed to working on the uneven parts and usually finds little difference in time or labor as compared with work on the level country.





By and by haying started. This was quite a change to hewing logs and building shanties. I went to the work with an old-time relish and made good progress. The weather was ideal.



I now had my first stack of hay in Alberta and naturally felt proud of the fact, both for the hay's own value and the industry represented. I felt that it pointed to bright prospects for the future.



During a spell of beautiful weather in October, 1901, I decided to take a day's drive. Up to this time it had been nothing but work. With a number of ladies and a couple of children I started off one morning for Lake Tunis. A great nuisance in driving over the prairie in Alberta is the need of crossing many creeks. We had our first experience after about a mile out, but farther on we came to a very good road on the top of a hill, where a fox and a magpie were seen.

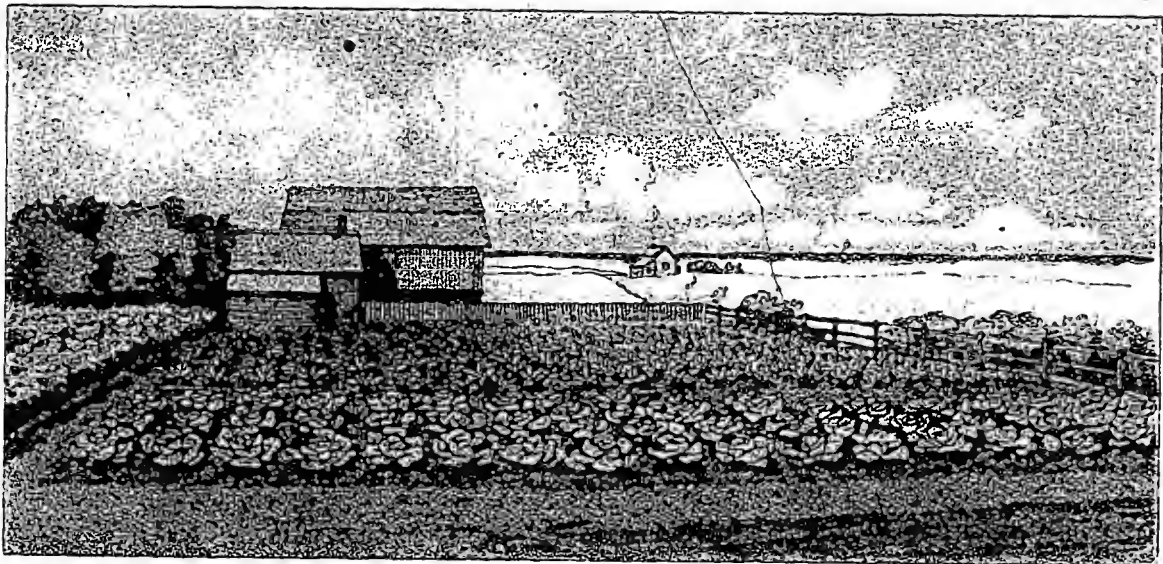
It was near noon when Lake Tunis was reached, so we had dinner on one of the banks under a fine grove of Poplars and Balm of Gilead Trees.

The return trip was made in the afternoon.





One of the places that especially attracted our attention on the way to Lake Tunis was the well-kept farm of Mr. Briggs. The garden was filled with rows of fine turnips, cabbages, raspberries, currants, etc., and generally presented an appearance of neatness and care.

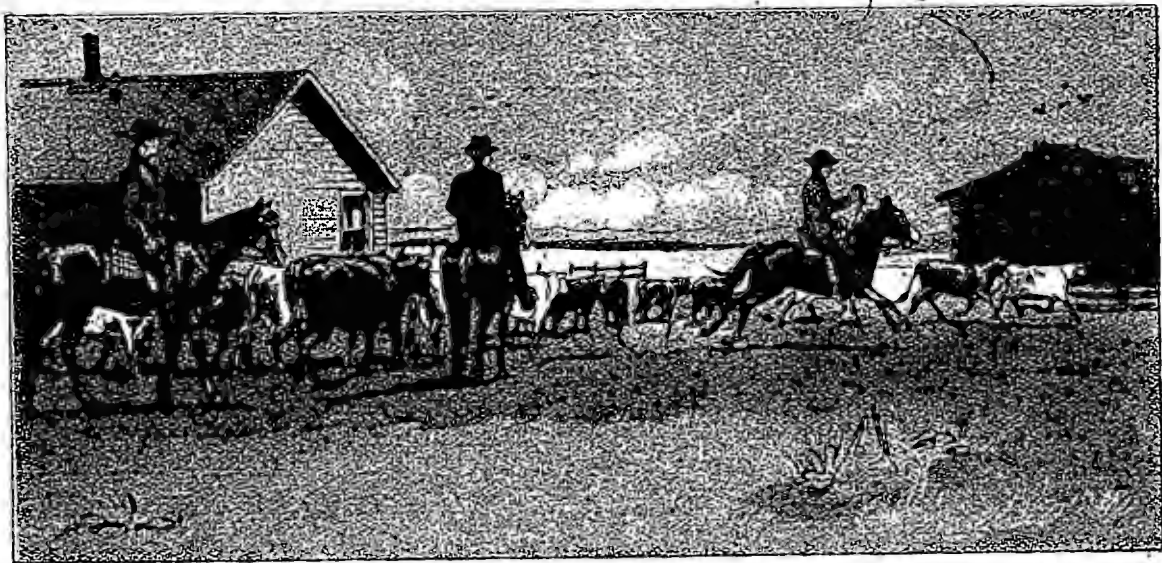


During my first fall, in Alberta, Mr. Ruth, Charlie and I purchased some cattle, on shares, to be kept for a period of three years. The cattle were corralled in Mr. Ruth's yard and there divided, each of us taking eight head.

Our turns were determined by lot. Mr. Ruth marked his cattle by cutting off the hair from the end of their tails.

One day in the following spring our cattle strayed away in a terrific rainstorm. The rain that fell flooded every place low-lying and going after the cattle in the evening, Percy and I got wet through.

Besides, my horse tripped over a root, when travelling at good speed, and both of us went headlong into the mud. Only a few of the cattle could be found, but the others showed up later. Next day the Rosebud Valley was a small lake.



Harold and Ralph made fast friends with one of the cows, called Brownie, and climbed on her back every time they found her lying down.

Brownie" seemed to enjoy the boys' presence and I know they were happy.



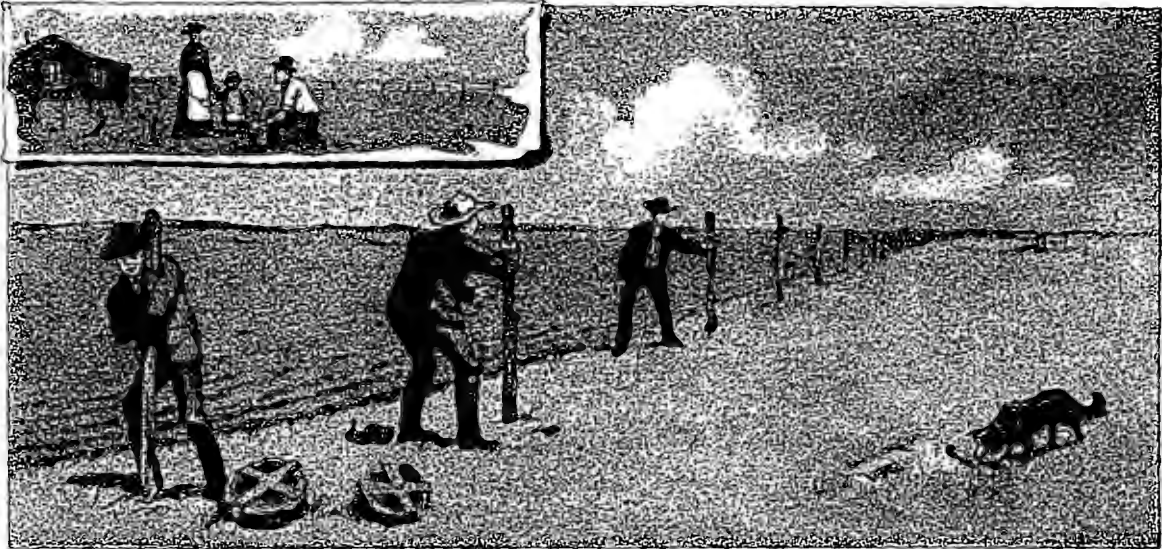
In the spring of 1902 I began planting a variety of shrubs and trees which was rather pleasant work and proved to be profitable. Mr Ruth and I discovered a number of Wild Gooseberry bushes near Rosebud Creek and transplanted some





Charlie was planting his shrubs when I went to see him one afternoon in May.

After the crops were in, fencing the fields was next in order. Percy, Mr. Ruth, and Hugh gave me a hand and we completed the work on my place. Hugh had come over to see me on the previous Sunday, so his stay was of considerable benefit to me.



That year, the second in Alberta for me, witnessed the cutting of my first harvest. Six or seven acres of oats and barley was all I had, besides two or three small plots of experimental oats and wheat which I cut with the mower and bound by hand. Harold helped a little.



After feeding all day on the rich prairie grass my cows come home to the corral where they wait for milking time.

There were more cows to come last summer—a good many more—than the first year I was here, a sure indication of progress and prosperity.



When I had been in Alberta some little time,  
Mabel, now Mrs. Forge, came to stay for a few months for  
her health, which improved very much as a result of the visit.  
When Mabel and Bertha and their little ones happened to  
call on us at the same time, I thought, here was good  
evidence of the forward march—a new generation.





# THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST

---

## HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS

Any even numbered section of Dominion Lands, excepting 8 and 26, which has not been homesteaded, or reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or for other purposes, may be homesteaded upon by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres more or less.

Entry may be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land to be taken is situate, or if the homesteader desires he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, or the local agent for the District, in which the land is situate, receive authority for some one to make entry for him. A fee of \$10 is charged for a homestead entry.

A settler who has been granted an entry for a homestead is required by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act, and the amendments thereto, to perform the conditions connected therewith, viz. : At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years. It is the practice of the Department to require a settler to bring 15 acres under cultivation, but if he prefers he may substitute stock ; and 20 head of cattle, actually his own property, with buildings for their accommodation, will be accepted instead of the cultivation.

If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of any person who is eligible to make a homestead entry resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for by such person as a homestead, the requirements as to residence prior to obtaining patent may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.

If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead; the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

The term "vicinity" is meant to indicate the same township, or an adjoining or cornering township.

A settler who avails himself of these concessions in regard to residence must cultivate 30 acres of his homestead, or substitute 20 head of stock, with buildings for their accommodation, and have besides 80 acres substantially fenced.

Application for patent should be made at the end of three years. Before making application for patent, the settler must give six months' notice in-writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of his intention to do so.

**N.B.--In addition to Free Grant Lands, to which the Regulations above stated refer, thousands of acres of most desirable lands are available for lease or purchase from Railroad or other corporations and private firms in Western Canada.**

